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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Eric G. Griego

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 24, 2009 AS "AFTER-SCHOOL FOR ALL DAY" AT
THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, studies by law enforcement and nonprofit
organizations show that the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00
p.m. are the peak hours for children to become victims of
violent crimes or to commit crimes themselves; and

WHEREAS, these hours are also the peak hours for drug and
alcohol use and for automobile accidents involving children;
and

WHEREAS, research shows that after-school programs can
have a positive impact on society by making streets safer and
by reducing risk-taking behavior, such as alcohol, tobacco and
drug use by teenagers; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs lead to improved

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1 educational outcomes for children by increasing school
2 attendance, reducing suspensions and improving standardized
3 test scores; and

4 WHEREAS, after-school programs reduce crime, health costs
5 associated with drug and alcohol use, grade repetition and the
6 need for remedial education; and

7 WHEREAS, after-school programs help working families by
8 providing their children with a safe, educationally enriching
9 place to go after school when there is no parent at home; and

10 WHEREAS, school buildings, playgrounds and other school
11 facilities can and should be better utilized before, during and
12 after school hours for structured out-of-school time for
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, only a small portion of elementary and middle
15 schools in the state currently operate an out-of-school time
16 program; and

17 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, nineteen percent of children in
18 kindergarten through twelfth grade are responsible for taking
19 care of themselves after school hours, and more than thirty-
20 nine percent of those children would be likely to participate
21 in an after-school program if one were available in their
22 community; and

23 WHEREAS, approximately fifty-five percent of New Mexico's
24 children have either a single working parent or two parents who
25 work, making out-of-school time programs a necessity rather

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1 than a luxury;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that February 24, 2009 be proclaimed "After-
4 School for All Day" at the senate, recognizing the efforts and
5 accomplishments of New Mexico after-school providers; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
7 department, in conjunction with the children, youth and
8 families department and the children's cabinet, be requested to
9 continue to pursue efforts to streamline funding and avoid
10 duplication of after-school programs in the state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
13 of children, youth and families and the members of the
14 children's cabinet.